

City Will Use Voting Machines Next April

Torrance

Press-Herald

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Lightning Cuts Power; Blamed for Two Deaths

Chlorine Gas Kills Two Men

One of the worst electrical storms ever to hit Southwest Los Angeles County has been blamed for two deaths and more than \$30,000 in damage to electrical equipment in this area.

The deaths occurred Thursday in the Carson area when a chlorine gas line ruptured—apparently as the result of a power blackout—and sent a swirling green cloud drifting in the Carson area.

A second brief storm hit the Torrance area shortly after noon Friday and resulted in power blackouts throughout the city when two Southern California Edison Co. sub-stations were struck by lightning.

TWO MEN were killed Thursday at the American Chemical Plant, 2121 E. 223rd St., Carson, when a chlorine gas line ruptured about 4 a.m. Dead are Fred Davenport, a plant engineer, and James R. Dane, 41, of Long Beach, an operator at the chemical plant.

Doctors at Harbor General Hospital said Davenport had burns across his face, leading to the possibility he may have been struck by lightning. An autopsy was ordered to determine the cause of death.

Dane died later Thursday. He had been overcome by the chlorine fumes at the plant.

AT LEAST 70 other persons were treated at four hospitals, including several motorists who were driving on the San Diego Freeway when the green cloud drifted across the freeway and into a residential area. Ten persons were reported still hospitalized late Friday, although all were reported recovering.

Edison officials said they had replaced more than 100 transformers in an attempt to restore power which the first storm cut.

"We were caught up at noon," John Salinger, Edison district superintendent, told the Press-Herald Friday. "Then she hit us again."

FRIDAY'S brief thunderstorm cut power in much of Torrance, Redondo Beach, and other area cities when Edison's Walteria and North Torrance substations were struck by lightning. Power was restored about 45 minutes after it was cut, it was reported.

The storm downed power lines at Maple and Earl Streets, 190th Street and Western Avenue, and 190th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Traffic jams were reported along 190th Street near the Redondo Beach city boundary when signals in the area were knocked out.

Friday's storm dropped .32 inches of rain on the city in less than two hours, bringing the total for the three-day storm to .54 inches.

County Gets \$3.5 Million For Streets

SACRAMENTO — State Controller Houston I. Flournoy has announced the distribution of \$51,964,233 in highway users taxes during August including \$3,551,529 for Los Angeles County.

Flournoy said a total of \$29,266,394 went to the state highway fund for expenditure on state highways; \$10,880,232 directly to the counties; \$6,963,349 to the state highway fund for expenditure on the select system of county roads and city streets; and \$4,854,258 to the state highway fund for cities.

The total was derived from the following sources: gasoline tax, \$46,868,694; diesel fuel tax, \$2,970,409; transfer from the motor vehicle transportation tax fund.

Collision Ends Life

A Torrance man died at noon Friday shortly after being rushed to Little Company of Mary Hospital by ambulance. Probable cause of death was listed as suffocation. The dead man is Tabor Porter, 59, 21111 Figueroa, whose death followed a two-car collision. Porter was driving westbound on Torrance Boulevard when his pick-up truck hit a parked car occupied by Charles Nelson Smith, 1224 Madrid Ave. Smith was not injured. After Porter's truck came to a halt, witnesses observed him sprawled across the front seat, unconscious. Police believe Porter may have passed out prior to hitting Smith's car.

Worker Electrocuted

A 47-year-old El Monte man was electrocuted early Friday morning while apparently working in a new housing tract on the Palms Verdes Peninsula. Elbert Morgan was pronounced dead at the scene near Crest Road and Crenshaw Boulevard, according to Sheriff's deputies. Morgan apparently was directing a boom truck which was backing up when the boom touched high-tension wires in the area, it was reported.

Trustees, Council to Meet

Both the Torrance Board of Education and the City Council will hold regular meetings this week. School trustees will convene at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the district's Administrative Offices, 2325 Plaza del Amo. Councilmen are scheduled to meet Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd.

Airport Shot Up By Pair

Two men were jailed Friday night following a shooting spree at Torrance Municipal Airport that terrorized occupants of the airport Administration Building and Halfway House restaurant.

Torrance police booked Lauren Eugene Bryant, 18424 Seine Ave., Artesia, and Halsey Morton Meier, 23861 Madison St., on charges of assault with intent to commit murder and robbery. Bryant was also charged with shooting at an occupied dwelling.

When police responded to a call from a Halfway House employe, they found three bullet holes in the glass door of the Airport Administration Building.

THE RESTAURANT employe, Gene Wright of 1450 W. Compton Blvd., Gardena, told police that two men answering the description of Bryant and Meier entered his establishment about 8:30 p.m. and began yelling insults at a lady customer.

The two men then left through the rear door and customers heard several gunshots coming from the rear of the restaurant. Wright and several of the customers went outside to investigate.

The two men were seen standing near their late model white Cadillac. One of the men pointed his gun directly at Wright and pulled the trigger. A click was heard but no bullet was discharged.

THE SUSPECTS then fled (See AIRPORT, Page A-2)



DANCING LIGHTNING... Lightning cut a weird pattern across the Walteria sky about 3 a.m. Thursday during the height of an electrical storm which hit the southwest area. The area has been plagued by three days of electrical storms and thundershowers, resulting in some \$30,000 in damage to equipment owned by the Southern California Edison Co. (Photo by Ray Deurloo)

Two Men Sought For Looting Home

Two unidentified young men are being sought by Torrance police following a burglary Thursday which netted the thieves some \$1,700 worth of jewelry, appliances, and cash.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Fritz, 3402 W. 227th Place, reported the loss of a color television set, a stereo, camera equipment, a box of jewelry, and other small items discovered missing when Mrs. Fritz arrived home at about 5 p.m. Thursday.

Police said that burglars apparently entered the Fritz home by forcing open a dining room window, using a screwdriver and a pipe wrench. The burglary occurred sometime between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., police said.

A 12-year-old boy told police he saw two men leaving the victimized house in a late model white Ford pick-up truck about 3:30 p.m. The suspects, the youth said, were between 20 and 25 years of age and wore white T-shirts. One of the young men wore long hair and the other had a flat top, he added.

Narcotics Charges Jail Four

Torrance police ended a two-week undercover investigation Friday with the arrest of four persons for violations of state narcotics laws.

Arrested were Emanuel A. Landavazo, 19, Glenn Stewart, 19, Donald House, 20, and Leonard Jackson, 21, all of 4315 W. 182nd St. The arrests were made at the 182nd Street address.

Police said they found about 20 ounces of marijuana, a small quantity of hashish, and various dangerous drugs. The drugs were worth about \$300. It was reported.

LEARNING TO VOTE... Torrance City Clerk Vernon W. Coil explains the workings of the new "Votomatic" voting machine to City Hall secretary Dorothy Dawes. The new machines, which employ IBM punch-card ballots, will enable election officials to tabulate Torrance election returns in a matter of minutes. The easy-to-operate Votomatics will be available for the April municipal election here. (Press-Herald Photo)

IBM Voting System To Speed Counting

By NATALIE HALL, Press-Herald Staff Writer
 Torrance voters will know the results of their April municipal election within two hours after the polls close.

Election-night vigils, with returns dribbling in until after dawn, are a thing of the past since IBM developed the "Votomatic," a streamlined voting and tallying system.

Described as 100 per cent "cheat-proof and mistake-proof" by Torrance City Clerk Vernon W. Coil, the revolutionary system employs punch-card voting machines and high-speed computers for figuring up the results.

EQUIPMENT for the new voting method will be loaned free of charge to individual cities by the County of Los Angeles which recently became the 29th county in California to adopt the IBM system.

The new voting machines replace the old paper ballot system with a compact "book-let" printed with the names of candidates. A small IBM computer card is inserted beneath the booklet and fastened into position with small red projections.

The voter is asked to make his selection from the booklet

and then use a small stylus to punch a hole in the IBM card by placing the stylus point into the spot provided next to each candidate's name. When he has made his selection, the voter removes the card from the machine and places it in an envelope provided by a precinct inspector. These ballots will then be placed in a ballot box, just as with the old system.

WHEN THE polls close, the inspectors will bring all the ballot cards to the Torrance City Hall where they will be fed into a machine for high-speed tabulation. Once all ballot cards are assembled, the IBM machine will be able to count Torrance votes in a matter of minutes.

Absentee ballots and write-in votes will be tallied separately.

City Clerk Coil said that both the city and county will save money with the Votomatic by cutting the number of election board members ordinarily employed to man the polls and tally results.

LOS ANGELES County expects to cut the number of board members from 105,000 to 38,000 and to consolidate its 13,000 precincts into 7,000.

Father, Sons Arrested For Midnight Burglary

Torrance police officers arrested a father and two sons early Friday morning in connection with a burglary in progress at South High School.

Arrested were Joseph W. Douglas, 45, of 4001 W. 242nd St., and his sons, Neil Wilson Douglas, 19, and Joseph W. Douglas, 16, of the same address.

At about 12:20 a.m. Friday, police units were dispatched to the Administration Building at South High in response to a silent burglar alarm. Upon arrival, officers spotted Neil Douglas inside the building and subsequently arrested the youth after finding

him hiding in a small room. Prior to this arrest, another police unit stopped the boys' unemployed father, who was driving away from the school. He was questioned and released, but later arrested near his home.

After further investigation, officers arrested the younger son, at about 3:20 a.m. This arrest was accompanied by the confiscation of property believed stolen—a typewriter, an adding machine, and a check protector machine.

Officers at the scene of the burglary noted that an attempt had been made to remove two typewriters from the Administration Building.



FLAGS FOR VIETNAM... At the request of Pfc. James W. Simpson, a member of the 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Co., two California flags are being sent to Vietnam by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Pfc. Simpson, of 303 E. 219th St., plans to fly one flag at airfield headquarters and the second flag over his barracks. Paul Anderson (left), chairman of the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee, accepts the two flags from Myron Eldsmo, manager of the downtown Torrance branch of Security First National Bank. The second flag was furnished by the downtown branch of United California Bank. Two other Torrance soldiers are in Simpson's company—Warrant Officer Alan Burnor and Spec. 4 Keith E. Griffin. (Press-Herald Photo)